



# United Nations



# How the UN Works



- ◆ Established on 24 October 1945
- ◆ 51 countries were committed to preserving peace through international cooperation
- ◆ UN Membership: 192 countries
- ◆ States agree to accept obligations of the [UN Charter](#), an international treaty that sets out basic principles



# How the UN Works

- ◆ According to the Charter the UN has 4 basic principles:
  1. Maintain international peace and security
  2. Develop friendly relations among nations
  3. Cooperate in solving international problems and promote respect for human rights
  4. Be the center for harmonizing the actions of nations

# How the UN Works

- ◆ The UN is not a world government
- ◆ It does not make laws
- ◆ Large or small, rich or poor, and with differing political views and social systems:
  - All member states have a voice
  - All member states have a vote

# Main Bodies

- ◆ General Assembly (New York)
- ◆ Security Council (NY)
- ◆ Economic and Social Council (NY)
- ◆ Trusteeship Council (NY)
- ◆ Secretariat (NY)
- ◆ International Court of Justice (Netherlands)



# General Assembly

- ◆ The main deliberative organ of the UN
- ◆ Composed of all member states
- ◆ Each member has one vote.
- ◆ Decisions on important issues require two thirds majority vote
  - Peace and Security
  - Admissions of new members
  - Budget matters
- ◆ Decisions on other issues: simple majority

# Functions and Powers

- ◆ Maintain international peace and security (disarmament)
- ◆ Make recommendations to the Security council
- ◆ Promote international political cooperation
- ◆ Develop international law
- ◆ Promote human rights
- ◆ Over see international collaboration in the economic, social, humanitarian, cultural, and educational and health fields

# Functions and Powers

- ◆ Receive and consider reports from the Security Council and other UN organs
- ◆ Consider and approve UN budget
- ◆ Establish financial assessments of Member States
- ◆ Elect non-permanent members to SC and other UN councils and organs
- ◆ Appoint Secretary General



# General Assembly

- ◆ Subsidiary Organs
- ◆ Committee on Information
- ◆ Human Rights Council
- ◆ Candidacies

# Security Council

- ◆ Primary responsibility to maintain peace and security
- ◆ A representative of each member must be present at all times at the UN Headquarters
- ◆ 15 Council Members
- ◆ Five permanent members:
  - China
  - France
  - Russian Federation
  - United Kingdom
  - United States



"Non Violence"

# Security Council

- ◆ Ten non-permanent members elected by the General Assembly for two year terms
  - Belgium
  - Congo (Republic of the)
  - Ghana
  - Indonesia
  - Italy
  - Panama
  - Peru
  - Qatar
  - Slovakia
  - South Africa
- ◆ Each member has one vote



Japanese Peace Bell

# Security Council

- ◆ In the event of fighting the Council:
  - Tries to secure a ceasefire
  - May send peace keeping mission
  - Impose economic sanctions
  - Order an arms embargo
  - Rare occasions "all means necessary"
- ◆ The Council makes recommendations to the General Assembly on:
  - appointment of Secretary General
  - admission of new Members to the UN